



# DESE

Missouri  
DEPARTMENT OF ELEMENTARY & SECONDARY  
EDUCATION™

## FOOD & NUTRITION SERVICES

**January 31, 2024**

Move Across Missouri 2024 Program

***Move Across Missouri kicks off February 5th! The [registration link](#) for non-4-H youth and adults will be open past the start date as well. Be sure to use the hashtag #MoveAcrossMO in social media posts!***



# MOVE ACROSS MISSOURI 2024

BROUGHT TO YOU BY MU  
EXTENSION: 4-H & HEALTH  
AND HUMAN SCIENCES

## WHAT IS IT

A 12 WEEK PHYSICAL  
ACTIVITY CHALLENGE  
TO IMPROVE HOW  
MUCH YOU MOVE

## HOW DOES IT WORK

LOG YOUR ACTIVITY  
WEEKLY AND EARN  
POINTS. BONUS POINTS  
FOR EXTRA ACTIVITIES!

## WIN PRIZES

AWARDS GIVEN FOR  
TOP INDIVIDUALS IN  
THE COUNTIES AND  
STATE, AND TO TOP  
GROUPS IN THE  
COUNTIES AND STATE



**FEB 5-  
APR 28**

## HOW TO REGISTER

**4-H MEMBERS REGISTER ON 4HONLINE**  
[HTTPS://V2.4HONLINE.COM/](https://v2.4honline.com/)

**NON 4-H MEMBERS REGISTER AT**  
[HTTPS://EXTENSION.MISSOURI.EDU/EVENTS/  
MOVE-ACROSS-MISSOURI](https://extension.missouri.edu/events/move-across-missouri)



FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT BETHANY AT [RIPPYB@MISSOURI.EDU](mailto:RIPPYB@MISSOURI.EDU)



Healthy Blue

## Farm to School Information and Grant Opportunities

### Bringing the Farm to School:

### Local Producer, School, and ECE Introduction Registration

**Date:** Wednesday, February 21, 2024

**Time:** 8:00 am - 3:00 pm

**Location:** Drury Plaza Hotel Cape Girardeau Conference Center  
3351 Percy Drive  
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701

A no cost, working lunch highlighting local ingredients will be served

**Registration - Click here to register!** *(Registration by February 13 is required)*


School nutrition professionals that attend this training will:

- Hear from other schools that have successfully incorporated local products.
- Gain knowledge and resources for local purchasing.
- Network with producers interested in selling to school and ECE markets.

For more information contact: Barbara Shaw, Coordinator - DESE Food and Nutrition Services / [Barbara.Shaw@dese.mo.gov](mailto:Barbara.Shaw@dese.mo.gov) or 573-751-8673


*You can find additional information, resources and the **application** on the **Promoting Specialty Crops in Missouri** DESE, FNS webpage.*

**Promoting Specialty Crops in  
Missouri Schools & ECEs Grant  
Program**



The Missouri Grown program is providing up to \$1,000 reimbursement to Missouri schools & early childcare education centers to cover the purchase of specialty crops. Schools/ECEs must purchase specialty crops from a Missouri farmer and complete an educational activity about specialty crop production with students.

**Specialty crops must  
be purchased from a Missouri  
farmer between April 1, 2022  
and September 28, 2024.**



Scan here for more information or  
visit [agriculture.mo.gov/abd/financial](https://agriculture.mo.gov/abd/financial).

Through the **Local Food for Schools Cooperative Agreement Program (LFS)**, the Missouri Department of Elementary & Secondary Education (DESE) will provide a funding opportunity for schools to serve locally grown foods and beverages to children through the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs. These products will be healthy and unique to their geographic area, with the goal of improving child nutrition and building new

relationships between schools and local farmers.

Through LFS, DESE will encourage urban and rural schools to apply for funding to promote purchases of local foods for school meal trays and foster proper health and safety habits. This program will create an opportunity for underserved farmers to promote and grow their business as well as create a relationship between schools and local agricultural communities.

The LFS grant is open now, watch the [training video](#) and [click here to apply](#). LEAs must complete the application and email the written plan to [Barbara.Shaw@dese.mo.gov](mailto:Barbara.Shaw@dese.mo.gov)

A poster for the 'Local Food For Schools Grant' featuring a background of fresh vegetables. The text is arranged in a vertical layout with various colored boxes. At the top, a green box says 'Applications Now Open!'. Below that, the title 'Local Food For Schools Grant' is in large white letters. A green box below the title says 'Bring Local Food to YOUR School!'. An orange box titled 'What to Know:' contains a bulleted list of benefits and a QR code. The bottom of the poster features the Missouri Department of Elementary & Secondary Education logo and contact information for MO DESE Food & Nutrition Services.

**Applications Now Open!**

# Local Food For Schools Grant

**Bring Local Food to YOUR School!**

**What to Know:**

- Over 38,000 schools, nation wide, are bringing local food to their students!
- Students are more likely to eat their fruits & vegetables and try new, healthy foods with Farm to School programs!
- Farm to School programs have a positive impact on the local economy!
- **Grant Application & Resources:** 

**Missouri**  
DEPARTMENT OF ELEMENTARY & SECONDARY  
**EDUCATION**

MO DESE Food & Nutrition Services:  
[foodandnutritionservices@dese.mo.gov](mailto:foodandnutritionservices@dese.mo.gov)

### **Surplus of Precooked Black Beluga Lentil Pouches - Processed in Springfield, Missouri**

Timeless Food is a Montana based company that collaborates with local/regional farmers to clean, package and find a market for the organic lentils, chickpeas, and ancient grains that they grow.

They currently have a surplus of precooked black beluga lentil retort pouches that have been processed in Springfield, Missouri and have made them available to schools for purchasing under the pretense of it being processed locally.

In terms of applications, this product is precooked, shelf stable, and comes in 2lb pouches that are ideal for ripping open and dumping into service pans to be put on production lines or salad bars.

Please see below specs on the product as well as some links for further information on the company. Also, here is the location where the product was processed: <https://select-brands.net/>

Our Company: <https://www.timelessfood.com/>

Video about our company: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CaRnSzGPXbw&t=5s>

Book about our company: <https://www.amazon.com/Lentil-Underground-Renegade-Farmers-America/dp/1592409563>

## **Deadline to Implement Mid-Year is March 31, 2024**

This New final rule was effective 10/26/2023 [review powerpoint slides here](#).

The new rule lowers the minimum identified student percentage (ISP) from 40 percent to 25 percent.

Here is a list of **Eligible and Near Eligible LEA's** (schools with an ISP of 25%-39%). These schools would be newly eligible under the new final rule.

This creates a greater flexibility to offer no-cost meals to all enrolled students if financially viable to the school district.

### **Schools should make these following considerations:**

- CEP does remove administrative burdens such as distributing and approving free or reduced-price applications, verifying applications, collecting lunch money from students and counting meals by eligibility
- If the ISP does not yield 100 percent free claiming percentage then it is very essential to ensure financial viability to cover the difference in meals not able to be claimed at the free rate
- FRL percentages used for formula calculation
- LEAs should use the **CEP calculator** tool to determine the financial impact

### **Contact Food and Nutrition Services by phone or email:**

**Brittany Otto:** 573-751-7664

**Main Phone:** 573-751-8673

**Email:** [Brittany.Otto@dese.mo.gov](mailto:Brittany.Otto@dese.mo.gov)

**Cc:** [Barbara.shaw@dese.mo.gov](mailto:Barbara.shaw@dese.mo.gov), [Becky.hart@dese.mo.gov](mailto:Becky.hart@dese.mo.gov)  
and [foodandnutritionservices@dese.mo.gov](mailto:foodandnutritionservices@dese.mo.gov)

## **Reminders and Important Information**

### **Verification Report**

Please note that the Verification Report was due to be complete as of December 15. **If you have not yet completed this report, the report is now past due.** Please complete the report immediately. If you have not yet completed the Verification process, please do so immediately. For guidance on the verification Report, please review the **Verification Report Guidance**.

As a reminder the verification process is due to be completed by November 15 annually. If a family was notified of their selection for verification and has failed to provide documentation by the due date provided, they must be changed to full pay and notified of the change. This will complete the verification process. For a refresher on the verification process please view our **Verification Step-by-Step Summary**.

This report is required for all LEAs participating in the National School Lunch Program. **As of February 1, we will begin putting schools who have not completed their report on a payment hold until the report is complete.** If you require further assistance, please reach out to your regional Nutrition Program Specialist. To identify your Specialist, please use the **Map** and **Contact Information**.

### **Supply Chain Assistance Payments**

Round 4 payments will be processing soon. Food Service Management Company (FSMC) schools must complete an attestation which will be available soon. You can check for



updates under the Supply Chain Assistance section on the [News and Updates page](#).

### **RCCI Training**

DESE, FNS in person RCCI training will take place in Jefferson City, on Friday, Feb 16th, 2024 from 9am-3pm in the Governor's Office Bldg, Room 450. Attendees will be provided the newly developed Missouri RCCI Manual. Training will cover the manual contents, including what we will look at during an administrative review. For questions or to RSVP, please contact Ginger Thompson, 573-751-3862, [ginger.thompson@dese.mo.gov](mailto:ginger.thompson@dese.mo.gov) by Friday, Feb 2nd.

## **Let's Talk Tuesday - Upcoming Webinar**

**Join us for an upcoming  
Let's Talk Tuesday webinar!**

***Tuesday, February 13th  
2-3pm CST***

An email will be sent out the morning prior to each LEAs Authorized Representative on file. The email will include the link required to access the webinar.

As always, the webinar will be recorded and posted at a later date for those that are not able to attend the live release. We look forward to hosting these trainings for all of you.



## **Important School Nutrition Information and Resources**

### **MO Healthy Schools**

Visit the [new website](#) and sign up for the Missouri Healthy Schools newsletter!

### **Legislative Action Conference (LAC)**

Be part of advocacy in action when you attend **SNA's Legislative Action Conference** in the nation's capital March 3-5, 2024.

### **Summer Food Service Program (SFSP)**

This notice announces the annual adjustments to the **reimbursement rates** for meals served in the **Summer Food Service Program for Children for calendar year 2024**. These adjustments address changes in the Consumer Price Index, as required under the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act.

### **Team Nutrition Recipes**

Check out the **Team Nutrition Recipe of the Month Newsletter** to find some soup recipes to help keep you warm this winter! You can also scan the QR code for Child and Adult Care Food Program Cooking Videos, or check out the Institute of Child Nutrition's **Child Nutrition Recipe Box** for more recipes!



### **Missouri Healthy Schools Conference**

The 31st Annual Missouri Coordinated School Health Conference will be held February 21-23, 2024 in Lake Ozark, MO. DESE, FNS Coordinator, Barbara Shaw and Nutrition Program Analyst, Ginger Thompson will be presenting on School Nutrition Strategies to

## Rural Non-Congregate Summer

The Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023 establishes the summer meals for non-congregate meal service in rural areas with no congregate meal service. **You can review details [here](#).**

Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) and the National School Lunch Program's Seamless Summer Option (SSO) programs now have the flexibility for rural program operators to provide non-congregate meal service in the SFSP and SSO, collectively referred to as the summer meal programs.

The definition of rural allows the use of multiple recognized Federal definitions and classifications to designate areas as rural, as well as the option for State agencies, with Food and Nutrition Service Regional Office (FNSRO) approval, to identify additional pockets that are rural in character based on other data sources.

Use **this tool** to determine if a proposed site may be designated as rural for purposes of the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) and the Seamless Summer Option (SSO), collectively known as the Summer Meal Programs.

## USDA Foods Update

### **24/25 USDA Foods Packet**

The **USDA Foods Packet for 24/25SY** is now available on our **USDA Foods webpage**. Please complete and save your packet with your LEA's six digit agreement number in the email subject line. Return it by March 1st to [donatedfoods@dese.mo.gov](mailto:donatedfoods@dese.mo.gov). We will provide a confirmation email within 5 business day of receipt. If you do not receive a confirmation email, please contact us at [donatedfoods@dese.mo.gov](mailto:donatedfoods@dese.mo.gov) and verify we received it.

### **Upcoming Missouri Commodity Foods Expo**

**Don't Forget to Register! Walk ins are also welcomed!**

- **Kansas City – February 7, 2024**

**CLICK HERE to register for Kansas City 2024 HOA/SNA-KS/MO-DESE  
Heart Of America/School Nutrition Association-Kansas/Missouri -DESE  
Commodity Expo and Food Show  
KCI Expo Center  
11730 N Ambassador Dr.  
Kansas City, MO 64153**

### **Let'sTalk Tuesday – Commodity 101, February 13th**

We are offering a webinar version of our Commodity 101 class featured during our Commodity Expos. This session will provide step by step guidance and helpful tips on completing the 24/25 USDA Foods Packet. This session is great for new directors as well as anyone that would like to learn more about the USDA Foods Packet and tools available to assist with managing it. There is also our **23/24 Commodity 101 session** posted on our USDA Foods webpage.

### **Net Off Invoice Pounds**

We are now at the end of January and districts that have processed Net Off Invoice should have utilized more than 50% of pounds processed. Districts that have not reached this

level of use will be receiving an inquiry from your processors asking if you have a plan to utilize your remaining pounds before the end of the school year. Districts with a plan may keep their pounds and continue to draw them down. Districts that do not respond to the processors or that do not have a plan may have their pounds swept into the state account to take them to the 50% level.

### **24/25 Entitlement**

Entitlement for the 24/25 SY will be lower than the 23/24 SY. This is based on the “Total Lunches Served” for 22/23 SY which were decreased from 21/22 SY when the Seamless Summer Option was available for all districts. As you begin to consider processing options for next year, please place entitlement dollars where they will be most impactful to your students and your program. Do not depend on Bonus entitlement as it will be limited, and do continue to take advantage of the Bonus entitlement available this year.

**NOI Bonus** - Bonus entitlement is still available. Please reach out to each processor for specific information on pounds available.

**DOD Bonus** - Bonus entitlement is still available. Please contact us at [donatedfoods@dese.mo.gov](mailto:donatedfoods@dese.mo.gov) to request additional dollars.

### **Direct Delivery (Brown Box) Bonus**

Advertisements have just been posted on your Gold Star webpage. There are over 40 different products currently available as Bonus and more will be added throughout the month of February. Please check the website often and request only the amount you can immediately receive and store. Bonus items must be added to your next scheduled Gold Star delivery.

To request bonus items, log in on the [Gold Star website](#). On the left panel, click on Advertisements under the USDA Direct Delivery Header. Then request the items you would like. Districts that have direct delivery items they will not be able to utilize may use this feature to “advertise” the items to other districts. Any items advertised and not requested within 2 months, must be placed on delivery and accepted by the district advertising the item. More information and instructions on this advertisement feature can be found on the USDA Foods website under Gold Star Training Videos – Advertisements <https://youtu.be/FcpbOTCkHAQ>

### **Diced Peaches 100220**

USDA originally cancelled all truckloads of diced peaches for January – April deliveries. In December our USDA Team was given an additional opportunity to purchase truckloads for delivery in mid-January. We received confirmation from USDA that we will not receive these truckloads of peaches. Please select from our other bonus offerings to recover any entitlement lost on diced peaches.

## **Past Newsletters**

Missed a past newsletter or need to access them again? You can find them all on our [Food and Nutrition Services Newsletter page!](#)







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